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COMMENTATOR: "Senator Long, perhaps the most important news event of this whole year continues to predominate among the nation's opinion and thoughts and words in the U-2 incident and the subsequent summit failure. Now, as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, this past week you had a chance to hear some of the top echelon of the United States Government discuss these events, and I know that much of this has been in executive session and, therefore, secret, but can you give us some idea's to your insight into the whole matter as a result of hearing these various views?"

SENATOR LONG: "I don't propose to disclose any secret information, but I would be willing to give my reaction to it. I think, in the first place, we must realize this nation doesn't like to do something that is against international law, and spying is against international law. We signed a convention against it—I believe that was the Chicago Convention—but, under present circumstances, with all the spying that is being done on us, we are forced to spy on the other fellow and it might be a matter of national survival that we have this kind of information, to know what the other fellow is up to and what his capabilities are, in the event that he decides to attack us."

"Now, these U-2 flights obtained for us a vast amount of information that we never could have obtained any other way. We are the first nation to ever plead guilty to a charge of spying. In my judgment, it was a mistake. And when we pled guilty, we did it in such a way—I say 'we,' the President did, on behalf of this nation—that not only did the nation plead guilty, but the nation admitted that it was guilty of lying. First started out denying it and then admitting that the whole denial was a lie—they called it a 'cover story' which is just a fancy word for a lie, and then they proceeded to involve one of our civilian agencies, which has nothing to do with the military operation or spying operation and has no responsibility in that connection. Now, by Administration, this outfit has a worldwide weather service as a part of its operation and, by involving them, it puts America in the position that any time an American goes overseas in almost any capacity, the Soviet charge that all Americans visiting foreign lands are spies tends to have some credence. It tends to have folks suspect us of being spies when we enter foreign countries. Of course, the Russians always contend it anyway that any time an American enters Russia that he is a spy, and I must say that, even though I went there just on a sightseeing trip, if I had seen anything that I thought would be good for this country, I would have told them."

COMMENTATOR: "Well, in other words, this is a pretty black picture you painted thus far. We are guilty of spying, and, on top of that, of lying."

SENATOR LONG: "Well, I hate to say this, but it is just a fact of life. We don't want to do spy work, but we are forced to by the very force of circumstances. The other fellow is doing it on us, but nobody admits that they are doing it. Now, you can't tell the truth when you are spying. You can't go around the world saying, 'Look, fellows, I am a spy.' Or, when somebody asks you a question about your passport—what your mission is—when you go into some foreign country, you can't afford to admit that you are a spy going over there. I have never done it, but, if I had done it, I would realize that the minute I admitted I was a spy, I had destroyed my usefulness."